

REMARKS

After entry of the present amendment, claims 23 and 35-50 will be pending in the present amendment. Claims 1-22 and 24-34 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-21, 24, and 27-34 are cancelled due to the restriction requirement. Claim 23 has been amended. New claims 35-50 have been added. Support for the amendments to claim 23 and for new claims 35-50 can be found in the originally-filed claims and specification. Now new matter has been added by way of amendment.

The Office Action states that Applicants are required to elect a single invention selected from the following groups:

Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to methods of refolding NspA protein;

Group II, claims 10-21, drawn to refolded NspA protein;

Group III, claims 22-23, 25-26, drawn to methods of preparing a medicament using NspA protein;

Group IV, claim 24 (in part), drawn to a method of preventing neisserial infection by administering NspA protein;

Group V, claim 24 (in part), drawn to a method of treating neisserial infection by administering NspA protein;

Group VI, claims 27-28, drawn to antibodies specific for NspA protein;

Group VII, claims 29-31, drawn to methods of manufacturing a medicament using antibodies against NspA protein;

Group VIII, claims 32-34 (in part), drawn to methods of diagnosing a neisserial infection by identifying NspA protein within a sample; *or*

Group IX, claims 32-34 (in part), drawn to methods of diagnosing a neisserial infection by identifying antibodies against NspA protein within a sample.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group III (claims 22, 23, 25, and 26) for prosecution in the present application. New claims 35-50 have been added. The new claims depend from elected claim 23, and thus it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are directed to the elected invention. It is noted that Moe *et al.*, cited in the Office Action, does not teach or suggest contacting a solubilized NspA protein with refolding buffer as recited in claim 23 as amended.

The concerns of the Examiner addressed in full, Applicants respectfully request the examination of the present application and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance forthwith. Applicants encourage the Examiner to direct any questions regarding this application to the undersigned, who may be contacted at (919) 483-1467.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 6, 2009
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